



Band/Fee Forms on the band website in the Resource tab

www.mctband.org

2023-2024 Band Handbook

The band rehearses every Tuesday, every other Wednesday, and every Thursday until our last band competition. For further marching band and concert band rehearsals, please refer to the calendar section of www.mctband.org

ALL OF BAND CAMP/Drum Color Guard IS Mandatory!
Returning members attend three (3) summer rehearsals and New Members attend four (4) summer rehearsals outside of Band Camp

June

20 - 5:01pm-7:30pm - Color Guard
5:01pm-6:01pm - Percussion
6:30pm-7:30 - Winds and Brass

27 - 5:01pm-7:30pm - Color Guard
5:01pm-6:01pm - Percussion
6:30pm-7:30 - Winds and Brass

July

11 - 5:01pm-7:30pm - Color Guard
5:01pm-6:01pm - Percussion
6:30pm-7:30 - Winds and Brass

18 - 5:01pm-7:30pm - Color Guard
5:01pm-6:01pm - Percussion
6:30pm-7:30 - Winds and Brass

20 - 5:01pm-7:30pm - Color Guard
5:01pm-6:01pm - Percussion
6:30pm-7:30 - Winds and Brass

24 - 8:00am-4pm - Drum and Color Guard Camp
25 - 8:00am-4pm - Drum and Color Guard Camp
26 - 8:00am-4pm - Drum and Color Guard Camp
(Mandatory for all drummers and color guard)

27 - **Rookie and New Marcher Camp 8am-4pm**
(Mandatory for all new percussion and winds.
New Percussion attend 8am-Noon)

28 - **Rookie and New Marcher Camp 8am-4pm**
(Mandatory for all new percussion and winds.
New Percussion attend 8am-Noon)

21 - Full Band Camp 8am-5pm

August

1 - Full Band Camp 8am-5pm

2 - Full Band Camp 8am-5pm

3 - Full Band Camp 8am-5pm

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4 - Full Band Camp 8am-5pm (band fees due)

7 - Full Band Camp 8am-5pm

8 - Full Band Camp 8am-5pm (Band Pictures)

10 - Full Band Camp 3:00-6:00pm
(Mandatory for all band members)

15 - Full Band Camp 3:00-6:00pm
(Mandatory for all band members)

16 - First Day of School

17 - Full Band Rehearsal 3:30-5:30pm

22 - Full Band Rehearsal 3:30-5:30pm

23 - Full Band Rehearsal 3:30-5:30pm

24 - Full Band Rehearsal 3:30-5:30pm

25 - GAME 1

September

23 - Band Competition-All Day (possible)

30 - Band Competition-All Day (possible)

October

7 - Band Competition-All Day (possible)

8 - Band Competition-All Day (possible)

16 - Little Sisters of the Poor Lawn Party

21 - Band Competition-All Day (possible)

December

9 - Christmas Festival 1pm-4:30pm

February

9 - Krewe of Columbus Parade

March

6-8 - State Band Contest

16- St. Patrick's Day Parade

April

11 ROME TRIP

29 - Spring Concert

May

4 - Spring Hill Graduation Performance -

11 - Spring Concert

16- Marching Band Meeting





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Dear Parents and Band Members,

This year promises to be another exciting year for us. Last year, the band had a very successful marching and concert season. Our goal this year is to be the best we can. We have great students, parents, boosters, and faculty. Every year are tough times and great times, but the director and your fellow band members are here to encourage you - "*DON'T QUIT*". Band and making music is the most rewarding endeavor you can participate in. The essential ingredient to creating a successful band is **COMMUNICATION**: Director- to and from Student; Student- to and from Parent; and Director- to and from Parent. This handbook is an effort to help us all communicate. The band website is the band's greatest tool for communication. The site contains all the forms, documents, calendars, and music needed to aid in your success at McGill-Toolen CHS. The site also contains up-to-the minute departure and arrival times and will be updated often. The address is:

www.mctband.org

We need each other to maintain the great tradition that our band enjoys. In order for us to have a successful year, each student must strive to perform his or her best all of the time. The band family is not only for teaching your child to play an instrument, but to help him or her learn to work together in harmony with their peers. For your child, band will foster good attitudes and teach skills necessary for collaborative work that will be of value throughout their lifetime. Help the director by insisting that each student does their best and to participate in the full year of band.

The director is usually in the band room around 7:30am until 5:30pm Monday through Friday. If you need to contact me, please call me at any time. The band number is 251-445-2919 or my email is noahs@mcgill-toolen.org. If we are rehearsing, you can leave a message and I will return your call as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Sean C. Noah
Director of Bands

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Welcome all new and returning McGill-Toolen Yellow Jacket Band (McT Band) Booster Members.

Each parent, whose child is a member of the McT Band, is a member of the McT Yellow Jacket Band Boosters. The purpose of the Boosters is to support the activities of the McT Band. The Band Boosters include members who serve on the board, which are voted on by the Band Booster members in April, and all of the awesome band parents.

The Band Director is Mr. Sean Noah. We are very fortunate to have him and his amazing supportive assistant directors; Trey Krause, Aimee Gueret, Charles Porter, Marian Hall, Rebecca Reinhardt & Laura Noah. You will find Mr. Noah to be one of the most energetic and dedicated teachers you will encounter at McGill-Toolen. He puts in countless hours beyond the school day to ensure that all students have the best band experience possible. His dedication to this program can be seen through the bands' various performances throughout the school year.

There are multiple volunteer opportunities for band parents; like sizing uniforms, chaperoning games and trips, fundraising, donating or serving food, decorating for the Christmas Festival/Auction. It takes each band parent to help the band program thrive and succeed. Parent participation has been excellent in the past and I anticipate the same excitement, energy, and dedication for this year. After all, what better memories to build with your child than getting involved with what they love most!

Our first Band Parent meeting is scheduled for August 3rd at 6:00pm in the band room. This first meeting is very informative for the upcoming marching season and especially helpful to new band parents. At this meeting, you will have The opportunity to sign up to volunteer your time to the band program and meet some great new people.

The McGill-Toolen Catholic High School Band website is a great source of information, as well as the monthly band parent meetings. Your Band Booster Board is always willing to help answer questions, too:

President : Kimberly Foster	kimwim251@fostersmill.com
Co-1st VP: Scarlett Moulder	symoulder@gmail.com
Co-1st VP: Lori Smalling	ladybug7718@yahoo.com
Co-2nd VP: Angela O'Connor	angela.r.oconner@gmail.com
Co-2nd VP: Melissa Rankin	melissa_rankin@alisp.uscourts.gov
Secretary: Lisa O'Neil	taffarooneill@yahoo.com
Co-Logistics Coord.: Rick Johnson	rickjohnson77@hotmail.com
Co-Logistics Coord.: Daniel Smalling	bullfrog2007@bellsouth.net

I look forward to seeing all of you on August 3rd at 6:00pm. Go Jackets!

Kimberly Foster

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McGill-Toolen Band and Events

NO PASS NO PLAY - *Eligibility for all Bands and Color Guard:*

As a minimal academic requirement for participating in the McT Band program, any student who has 2 or more failing grades on a quarter grade report is ineligible to participate in any band activities program (outside of school hours) until the next grade reporting period. An "I" grade will be considered a failing grade until the "I" grade is removed.

Marching Band – One of four performing groups at McGill-Toolen Catholic High School. This band is open to all 9th through 12th grade band students and color guard members. The marching band is a co-curricular group, meaning that participation is required from any student in the band program. Rehearsals begin in mid-July and continue Tuesdays and Thursdays after school. The marching band performs at all football games — both home, away, and all playoff games — participates in Saturday competitions each fall, and marches in a Mardi Gras Parade and the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Symphonic Band – This band is the other half of the co-curricular participation and is open to all 9th through 12th grade students enrolled in the band program. The Symphonic Band performs concerts during the school year in December, March, and May. This group will participate in ABA/MENC Music Performance Assessment. This class is graded in conjunction with marching band and students earn credit toward graduation.

Jazz Ensemble – This class is only open to 9th through 12th grade band students who are enrolled in band class and membership in this group is by audition. The groups perform several times during the school year, typically performing concerts in December, March, and May. This class meets every Tuesday beginning late October.

Percussion Ensemble – This class is only open to select 9th through 12th grade percussion or band students. The group performs with the Marching Band, Symphonic Band, and Percussion Ensemble Concerts. This class is graded in conjunction with marching band and students earn credit toward graduation.

Color Guard/Winter Guard – Membership in this group is by audition only. All members participate in all auxiliary and band functions such as performances, practices, competitions, parades, and all special events. Clinic and Auditions will be held in the spring semester for this group. This class is graded in conjunction with marching band and students earn credit toward graduation. Winter Guard is a part on continuation of the color guard class. **There may be additional fees associated with this group. The group is an attendance mandatory group.** Rehearsals are after school. The group will compete in the local guard circuit during Feb - end of March.

You can find additional copies, forms, music, and calendar at:

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Spring Concert - Each spring, all participating members of all bands at McGill -Toolen meet for an annual Spring Concert. At this event, all members will receive recognition for their achievements over the past year. This is concert usually at the Saenger Theatre. A nominal charge may be required to pay for entrance.

The Band Room

The band room opens around 7:30am. It is the responsibility of every band member to keep the band room and section areas clean, neat, and tidy. *One section will be chosen every week to clean the band room and empty all trash.* The band room has NO “lost and found”. If you leave something outside of your cubby or loose in the band room, **it will be thrown away**. If things are important to you, you will always remember where to put them.

McGill-Toolen Band Department Grading Policy

Grading students in the band setting is made up of two major categories. The first category is in-class participation and attendance; the second category is tests and performance. There will be a final given at the end of each semester.

The students in the band program will rehearse or be involved in other musical activity daily. Rehearsal is not simply practice, but we will make strides each rehearsal to develop and grow as musicians and a band. The band will only be as good as you want it to be.

This statement is to inform you, the student and parent, so that you understand the basis for your grade in band.

Grading Scale

90-100.....A	70-79.....C
80-89.....B	60-69.....D
Below 60...F	

Weekly Grades

Each student enrolled in band class will receive 100 points for a weekly grade every week for the 9 weeks. You may maintain those 100 points by doing the following during class and at after school rehearsals and events:

Student completes in class assignments and outside class assignments such as practice, or music memorization. Student meets classroom/after school rehearsal expectations such as active participation in class, good posture, alertness, etc. Student has a working instrument and appropriate equipment in class. Student has all appropriate sheet music and assignment. Student follows all instructions, without question, given by the band director, drum major, staff members, band parents, and section leaders. Student comes to rehearsal on time.

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You may also lose points from your 100 point weekly grade and rehearsal grade. Deductions are, but not limited to, the following:

No music, No breathing tube	-25 points
No Instrument	-50 points
Chewing Gum	-15 points and jumping jacks
Improper Shoes at rehearsal (no sandals, flip-flops, Birkenstocks, heels, or boots ---- tennis shoes only)	-15 points and jumping jacks
Excessive talking/Talking out of turn/ Giving your unwanted opinion during rehearsal	-50 points and 2 laps around the practice field
Late to class or Rehearsal for every five minutes late	-25 points and 2 laps around the practice field or track
Missing or Skipping Sectional	-100 points
Refusing to play or participate	-100 points and permanent removal from band
Missing/Skipping Band Rehearsal	-100 points and possible removal from band
Missing/Skipping Band Performance	0 F for the 9 weeks and removal from band

Bad Attitude/Bullying- *Bad attitudes will not be tolerated.* This includes, but is not limited to: eye-rolling, non- participation, whining, excessive sighing, excluding yourself from the band, disregarding or not responding to authority figures, fighting, **Posting improper comments about other members or directors on any social media plat forms, etc.** Parent conference/Possible removal from band

•All points will be deducted immediately. If these deductions become an epidemic in band rehearsals – especially lack of focus or excessive talking – laps or jumping jacks will be used for an individual, section, or the entire band

Extra Credit

This is how you can earn back lost daily grades.

The list is:

30 min. Private lesson on your instrument/dance lesson (proof must be submitted)	+ 25 points
1hr Private lesson on your instrument/dance lesson (proof must be submitted)	+ 50 points
Attending any university or college wind ensemble/symphonic band concert, or Dance Recital (color guard only) (ticket stub or signed program by the conductor)	+25 Points
Audition for District Honor Band/All-State	+100 points
Attend a university or college football game and have the Band Director sign the football program	+20 points
Attend a Mobile Symphony Concert (ticket stub or signed program by the conductor or musician)	+50 points
Pass off your music before required date	+15 points
Pass off a scale, from memory.	+10 points

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Test/Performance Grades

The other half of the band grade is tests. Tests are given weekly and all performances are counted as tests. You will be notified in advance.

Weekly Tests ----- 100 points – Pass-offs, Playing tests, Written Tests, Digital Recordings

Performances----- 100 points - All Games, Parades, Performances

Pass-offs – All band and color guard members must pass off their marching show music/routine. All routines and music must be memorized. You will be tested on these; if you do not pass, you will not be allowed to participate in the half time performance for that week. You will dress in full uniform and attend the game; failure to do so will result in removal from band.

Fees/Charges

<i>Band Fees</i>	\$500	Paid over two installments during the summer (Paid to McT Band Boosters)
<i>Marching Shoes</i>	\$37	Orders will be taken during from May to Band Camp (Paid to McT Band Boosters)
<i>Band Polo Shirt</i>	\$45	Orders will be taken during from May to Band Camp (Paid to McT Band Boosters)
<i>Flip Folder</i>	\$10	Orders will be taken during from May to Band Camp (Paid to McT Band Boosters)
<i>Band Jacket</i>	\$70	Orders will be taken during Band Camp(OPTIONAL) (Paid to McT Band Boosters)

Due Dates: ALL FORMS AND FEES DUE Aug. 12th

July 6th - \$250

Aug. 12th - \$250

Or

Aug. 12th - \$500

Note - Marching Band Shoes, Band Polo, and Flip Folder (for winds and brass only) are required for all members.

Fundraisers

The band holds fundraisers during the year to offset the cost of supplies, food, and transportation. These fundraisers are required by every member in the band. The band will also have designated fundraisers for band trips. Fundraised money cannot be used to pay for band fees, activity fees, or lost or replaced instruments or uniforms. Money earned can be used for marching shoes, band polo, flip folder, band jackets, band trips, winter guard portion of color guard fees, and band banquet costs.

If you choose to do a personal fundraiser outside of the band for band trip etc., you must indicate that this is a personal fundraiser for you son or daughter. You cannot use the band or band name as the heading for your fundraiser. All personal fundraised money must be made out to you and then submitted to the band as a payment.

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Performance Attire

All Bands - At all public performances of any band, the McGill-Toolen Band uniform or director approved alternative uniform will be worn. Fitting of the uniforms will take place during rehearsals in August. The band uniform will be issued before football season and returned at the end of the year. It is the responsibility of the student and parent to keep the uniform in an acceptable condition – any part of the uniform not properly maintained will be replaced at the expense of the student/parent. Always have the proper marching shoes, socks, and gloves.

Band Uniform Rules:

1. Wear black marching shoes, black socks, and white gloves. The band t-shirt must be worn underneath the uniform jacket at every performance.
2. Each student will be assigned one full uniform. Hang the uniform after each performance. The pants should be hung neatly to ensure a pressed crease for the next performance.
3. Shoes **MUST** be polished before performances.
4. Jewelry may not be worn. This includes earrings, watches, rings (except senior rings), etc.
5. Girls' hair cannot be on or below the collar. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** Long hair will be tucked into the shako (hat).
6. No running while wearing the uniform – *unless the director tells you to do otherwise.*
7. **NO GUM - EVER.**
8. **NO excessive make-up.**
9. If you ruin a part or all of the uniform, you are responsible for the replacement.

*NOTE: There will be a group inspection before every performance, so be sure you have all the necessary parts of the uniform, instrument, make-up, and equipment. Any student who is **late** and/or not meeting the requirements for inspection will not march for that game. You will dress for the game and stand at attention on the field next to the pit, facing the band's performance, during half time. You will also receive a 0 (Zero) for the test performance grade and weekly grade.

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McT Uniform Care and Cleaning

JACKET/PANTS

Machine wash the uniform top and pants together with no other items. Use very light non-fragrant detergent

Hang to dry

DO NOT USE FABRIC SOFTENER FOR ANY REASON

DO NOT DRY CLEAN THE UNIFORM

DO NOT SEW OR HEM THE PANTS USE THE BUTTONS

GAUNTLETS

Wash the white gauntlets separately

Use very light non-fragrant detergent

Hang to dry

DO NOT USE FABRIC SOFTENER FOR ANY REASON DO NOT DRY CLEAN THE UNIFORM

Hat/Shako

Wipe out the shako with a Clorox wipe (inside only)

Attendance Policy

All rehearsals, performances, and Band Camp are mandatory. All band members and color guard members will be granted two excused absences from band practices - excluding band camp, games, performances, and play off games during the football season. Any absence beyond the excused absences will count against your grade and participation and cannot be made up. **No college/university visits/vacations/ family trips/ vacations/ trips/play practice/musical practice/club sports/Singing Children/ any outside McT events - or anything the director perceives as an unnecessary conflict will not be signed off on that directly conflicts with a band camp, band performance, rehearsal, game, parade, marching competition, Winter Guard Performance, or 4 rehearsals before State Contest and State Band competition.**

NEW - *If you are absent from school for two or more days during the week of a performance you will not be permitted to perform at a football game, state contest, or winter guard performance.*

If you accumulate two or more unexcused absence a parent conference will be required for further participation and/or removal from the band. There are no rehearsals on Monday and every other Wednesday. These days are available to schedule doctor's appointments or attend outside school events, private lessons, etc. The only exception to this attendance policy is a death in the immediate family, extreme personal illness, or hospitalization (a doctor's note or proof must be presented to the director upon your return — no parent notes). If you miss a band performance for any reason other than the ones stated above, you will receive a zero for your participation grade and a zero for the performance grade. These grades cannot be made up. The McT Band is a serious commitment — but the rewards are great.

ALL OF BAND CAMP/Drum Color Guard IS NECESSARY!
Returning members attend three (3) summer rehearsals and New Members attend four (4) summer rehearsals outside of Band Camp

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REHEARSAL CONFLICTS

The McGill-Toolen Band and Director understand the importance of a well-rounded education. Participation in one or multiple extra curricular activities can be a part of that education. Band rehearsals (not performances) sometimes conflict with other school approved activities (not sports clubs, plays, musicals, **Singing Children**, vacations, **family trips**), tutoring, make-up tests, *Talent Show Rehearsals*, and College visits. When these conflicts occur with a band rehearsal (not games, performances, parades, or the two weeks leading up to state band competition or marching competition) — it is the responsibility of the student to make the band director aware **TWO WEEKS** in advance. The director will then meet with that coach, sponsor, tutor, or teacher to work out an amicable solution. The band director will inform the student of the solution – NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND.

If you need to make up a test because of an absence or band performance, you must make Mr. Noah aware before rehearsal begins.

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR BEING ON TIME FOR ALL REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES.

YOU WILL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR BEING ON TIME FOR ALL REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES.

WORK IS NOT AN EXCUSE. FAMILY VACATION, UNAPPROVED EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY, OR COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY VISITS ARE NOT EXCUSES.
NO EXCEPTIONS.

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Band Bus and Away Trips

ALL Students ride the bus to all away band events. A Student may check off the bus at the conclusion of a performance as long as the proper form is turned into the director by 8AM the day of the event. Special circumstances will allow a student to meet the band at an event. Those will be handled on a case by case basis one week prior to an event.

These rules are here to keep your child safe and maintain discipline among the band.

A few things to remember:

- 1. Practice.***
- 2. Early is on time. On time is late.***
- 3. Organization will set you free. (Hint: Memorize the web address!)***
- 4. Know the band schedule and the TWO WEEKS RULE.***
- 5. You can learn with your brain or your muscles. The choice is yours. WORK SMART - NOT HARD.***

This will be a great experience!

Please visit:

<http://mctband.org/resources/>

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